passengers are allotted the bays thereby removing any chance for the taxi drivers to harass the passengers. At the International terminal, the taxis are allotted as the passenger comes with the prepaid receipt and the first passenger boards the first available taxi. Delhi Police is also taking strong action against touts operating at IGI Airport. In the year 2009, so far 122 touts have been apprehended by the Delhi Police.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Upgradation of Rajkot Airport

2781. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Airports Authority of India (AAI) is to acquire land from railways authority for the purpose of upgradation of Rajkot Airport;

(b) if so, whether the railways authority has agreed to give land to the AAI and when will the land be transferred from railways authority; and

(c) by when AAI proposes to complete that work of upgradation of Rajkot Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has requested Railway Authorities for transfer of 14.7 hectares of railway land for extension of runway to upgrade Rajkot Airport.

(b) and (c) The railway authority had proposed to transfer the requested land to AAI on lease at market rate with the condition that AAI has to rehabilitate the affected residential units at its own cost. This proposal was estimated to cost Rs. 50 crore. Keeping in view, its other financial liabilities and limited funds, AAI could not accept this proposal.

In the meantime, the State Government of Gujarat has proposed construction of a Greenfield airport at a different location.

Conditions of Air India

†2782. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed concern over the critical conditions prevailing in Air India;

(b) the persons responsible for this condition of Air India/Indian Airlines; and

(c) whether in order to improve upon in this regard both the Airlines can be separated as was the case earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government is seized of the financial condition of Air India. A GoM is monitoring the financial package/equity infusion for the airline. The reasons for losses are mainly due to low yields and load factors caused by the prevalent economic recession and the high fuel prices of 2008.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No, Sir.

Night landing facilities

2783. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many airports in the country do not have night landing facility; and

(b) if so, the details of airports where such facility do not exist?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) All operational airports managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) in the country have been provided with Aeronautical Ground Lights (AGL) night landing facility except at Umroi (Barapani) in Meghalaya, where work has been undertaken with an estimated cost of Rs.81.32 lacs.

Conveniences provided to passengers at airports

2784. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently formed Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) to oversee comforts and conveniences provided to passengers at airports;

(b) if so, whether AERA has found that the airport's regulators are not providing services resulting inconvenience to passengers to get facilities at airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government/AERA propose to take to ensure that passengers are not harassed at airports for want of boarding pass/baggage clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India, on 12th May, 2009, notified the establishment of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) of India under the AERA Act, 2008. One of the functions of the Authority is to monitor the set performance standards relating to quality, continuity and reliability of service as may be specified by the Central Government or any authority authorised by it in this behalf. AERA has recently started its functioning *viz.* the notified airports which handle above 1.5 million pax annually.

(b) AERA has not yet received any representation to the effect that airport operators are not providing requisite services and facilities to the passengers or that the passengers have been inconvenienced as a result thereof.

(c) Does not arise.

Financial auditing by DGCA

2785. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: